Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 /080 W

----- 105380

R 241515Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5407

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL DURBAN

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0957

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINS, SF

SUBJ: AFTERMATH OF P.E. RIOTS - OFFICIAL SAYS BLACKS MUST PAY

REF: CAPE TOWN 954, 949, 948

1. POLICE SPOKESMAN HAVE RELEASED STATEMENT THAT FINAL TOLL IN LAST WEEKS RIOTING IN PORT ELIZABETH IS 32 DEAD, 34 INJURED AND 142 ARRESTED. PRESS REPORTS SAY PROVISIONAL ESTIMATE OF PROPERTY DAMAGE SHOWS 77 BUILDINGS AND 30 VEHICLES WORTH ABOUT R1.1 MILLION (R1.00-\$1.15) WERE DESTROYED OR DAMAGED BY FIRE OR STONING.

2. PRESS REPORTS QUOTE LOUIS KOCH, DIRECTOR OF CAPE MIDLANDS BANTU AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION BOARD (BAAB) AS SAYING THAT RESIDENTS OF BLACK TOWNSHIPS IN PORT ELIZABETH WOULD HAVE TO PAY FOR DAMAGE CAUSED DURING RIOTS WHICH HE ESTIMATED AT R1.4 MILLION. FOLLOWING MEETINGS OF BAAB EXECUTIVE AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES, KOCH REPORTEDLY SAID THAT METHODS BY WHICH MONEY TO BE COLLECTED STILL HAD TO BE DECIDED IN CONSULTATION WITH BLACK LEADERS. KOCH REPORTEDLY SAID INSURANCE COMPANIES WERE NOT GOING TO PAY FOR ANY DAMAGES CAUSED BY RIOTERS AND THAT IT HAD CLEARLY BEEN PUT TO BLACK LEADERS THAT MONEY FOR RECONUNCLASSIFIED

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STRUCTION AND REPAIR WOULD COME FROM THEIR OWN PEOPLE.

3. WHILE ALL WAS REPORTED CALM IN THE TOWNSHIPS, POLICE WERE KEEPING A 24 HOUR GUARD ON POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS. SIX SCHOOLS IN THE TOWNSHIPS WERE REPORTED DEAMAGED BY FIRE DURING THE RIOTS.

COMMENT: IT IS NOT KNOWN IF KOCH WAS SPEAKING WITH AUTHORIZATION OF HIGHER OFFICIALDOM (ASSUMING HE WAS QUOTED CORRECTLY) BUT IT DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW DAMAGES CAN BE RATIONALLY APPORTIONED AND MONEY COLLECTED FROM ALL TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS MUCH LESS IN "CONSULTATION" WITH BLACK LEADERS. WHITE

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TAGS: PINS, SF To: STATE

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